CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   A method in a data processing system, comprising the steps of:

retrieving edits to a plan;

5   receiving an indication of a rate of display;

setting a time period equal to a reciprocal of the rate;

determining whether to display in a forward mode;

when it is determined to display in the forward mode,

removing the edits from the plan;

10   displaying the plan; and

for each of the edits,

applying the edit to the plan;

displaying the plan;

pausing for the time period;

15   determining whether to adjust the rate of the display; and

when it is determined that the rate of the display will be adjusted,

receiving an indication of a new rate of display; and

setting the time period equal to a reciprocal of the new rate; and

when it is determined not to display in the forward mode,

20   displaying the plan; and

for each of the edits,

removing the edit from the plan;

displaying the plan;

pausing for the time period;

25   determining whether to adjust the rate of the display; and

when it is determined that the rate of the display will be adjusted,

receiving an indication of the new rate of display; and

setting the time period equal to the reciprocal of the new rate.

2.	A method in a data processing system, comprising the steps of:

retrieving edits to a workflow;

receiving an indication of a rate of display;

setting a time period equal to a reciprocal of the rate;

determining whether to display in a forward mode;

when it is determined to display in the forward mode,

removing the edits from the workflow;

displaying the workflow; and

for each of the edits,

applying the edit to the workflow;

displaying the workflow;

pausing for the time period;

determining whether to adjust the rate of the display; and

when it is determined that the rate of the display will be adjusted,

receiving an indication of a new rate of display; and

setting the time period equal to a reciprocal of the new rate; and

when it is determined not to display in the forward mode,

displaying the workflow; and

for each of the edits,

removing the edit from the workflow;

displaying the workflow;

pausing for the time period;

determining whether to adjust the rate of the display; and

when it is determined that the rate of the display will be adjusted,

receiving an indication of the new rate of display; and

setting the time period equal to the reciprocal of the new rate.

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3.   A method in a data processing system having versions of a plan, each reflecting an instance in an edit history, the method comprising the steps of:
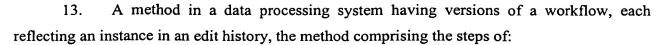
storing indications of the versions of the plan; and

displaying the versions of the plan in a sequential manner to simulate animation of the

5   edit history.

4.   The method of claim 3, wherein the step of storing indications of the versions of the plan comprises the steps of:

storing versions of a task of the plan; and

creating a link from the plan to the versions of the task.

10   5.   The method of claim 3, wherein the versions of the plan reflect an activation of the plan.

6.   The method of claim 5, wherein the plan comprises a plurality of tasks, and the indications of the versions of the plan comprise the states of the tasks.

7.   The method of claim 6, wherein the state comprises an unexecuted state.

15   8.   The method of claim 6, wherein the state comprises an executing state.

9.   The method of claim 6, wherein the state comprises an executed state.

10.   The method of claim 3, wherein the indications of versions of the plan reflect a modification to the plan.

11.   The method of claim 3, wherein the versions of the plan are displayed in reverse

20   order.

12.   The method of claim 3, wherein the display comprises a Gantt chart.

13.   A method in a data processing system having versions of a workflow, each reflecting an instance in an edit history, the method comprising the steps of:

storing indications of the versions of the workflow; and

displaying the versions of the workflow in a sequential manner to simulate animation of the edit history.

14.   The method of claim 13, wherein the step of storing indications of the versions of the workflow comprises the steps of:

storing versions of an activity of the workflow; and

creating a link from the workflow to the versions of the activity.

15.   The method of claim 13 wherein the indications of versions of the workflow reflect a modification to the workflow.

16.   The method of claim 13 wherein the versions of the workflow are displayed in reverse order.

17.   The method of claim 13 wherein the display comprises a flow diagram.

18.   A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a data processing system to perform a method, the method comprising the steps of:

retrieving edits to a plan;

determining whether to display in a forward mode;

when it is determined to display in the forward mode,

removing the edits from the plan;

displaying the plan; and

for each of the edits,

applying the edit to the plan; and

displaying the plan; and

when it is determined not to display in the forward mode,

displaying the plan; and

for each of the edits,

removing the edit from the plan; and

displaying the plan.

19.   The computer-readable medium of claim 18 wherein the plan comprises a plurality of tasks and the edits to the plan reflect a state of each task in the plan.

20.   The computer-readable medium of claim 19 wherein the state comprises an unexecuted state.

21.   The computer-readable medium of claim 19 wherein the state comprises an executing state.

22.   The computer-readable medium of claim 19 wherein the state comprises an executed state.

23.   The computer-readable medium of claim 18 wherein the edits to the plan reflect a modification to the plan.

24.   The computer-readable medium of claim 18 wherein the plan is displayed in a Gantt chart.

25.   A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a data processing system to perform a method, the method comprising the steps of:

retrieving edits to a workflow;

determining whether to display in a forward mode;

when it is determined to display in the forward mode,

removing the edits from the workflow;

displaying the workflow; and

for each of the edits,

applying the edit to the workflow; and

displaying the workflow; and

when it is determined not to display in the forward mode,

displaying the workflow; and

for each of the edits,

removing the edit from the workflow; and

displaying the workflow.

26.   The computer-readable medium of claim 25 wherein the edits to the workflow reflect a modification to the workflow.

27.   The computer-readable medium of claim 25 wherein the workflow is displayed in a flow diagram.

28.   A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a data processing system to perform a method, the method comprising the steps of:

retrieving a plurality of plans generated from a workflow; and

displaying each of the plans in a sequential manner to simulate the generation of the plans from the workflow.

29.   The computer-readable medium of claim 28, further comprising the steps of:

receiving an indication of a rate of display;

setting a time period equal to a reciprocal of the rate; and

pausing for the time period before displaying each of the plans.

30.   The computer-readable medium of claim 28, wherein the plans are displayed in reverse order.

31.   The computer-readable medium of claim 28 wherein the display comprises a Gantt chart.

32.   A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a data processing system to perform a method, the data processing system comprising a plan and the plan comprising a plurality of tasks, the method comprising the steps of:

    displaying a graphical representation of the plan, wherein the graphical representation has portions that correspond to the tasks;

    retrieving edits to the plan, wherein each of the edits modifies a state of one of the plurality of tasks; and

    for each of the edits,

        applying the edit to the corresponding task of the plan; and

        displaying the portion of the graphical representation that corresponds to the edited task in a visually distinctive manner.
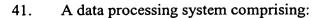

33.   The computer-readable medium of claim 32, wherein the state comprises an unexecuted state.

34.   The computer-readable medium of claim 32, wherein the state comprises an executing state.

35.   The computer-readable medium of claim 32, wherein the state comprises an executed state.

36.   The computer-readable medium of claim 32, wherein the graphical display comprises a Gantt chart.

37.   The computer-readable medium of claim 32, wherein the method further comprises the steps of:

    receiving an indication of a rate of display;

    setting a time period equal to a reciprocal of the rate; and

    pausing for the time period before applying the edit to the corresponding task of the plan for each of the edits.

38.   A data processing system comprising:

a secondary storage device further comprising a workflow;

a memory device further comprising a program that retrieves the workflow from the secondary storage device, that creates versions of the workflow, wherein each version reflects an instance in an edit history, that stores the versions of the workflow on the secondary storage device, and that displays the versions of the workflow in a sequential manner to simulate animation of the edit history; and

a processor for running the program.

39.   The data processing system of claim 38, wherein the program displays the versions of the workflow in reverse order.

40.   The data processing system of claim 38, wherein the program displays the versions of the workflow as flow diagrams.

41.   A data processing system comprising:

a secondary storage device further comprising a plan;

a memory device further comprising a program that retrieves the plan from the secondary storage device, that creates versions of the plan, wherein each version reflects an instance in an edit history, that stores the versions of the plan on the secondary storage device, and that displays the versions of the plan in a sequential manner to simulate animation of the edit history; and

a processor for running the program.

42.   The data processing system of claim 41, wherein the program displays the versions of the plan in reverse order.

43.   The data processing system of claim 41, wherein the program displays the versions of the plan as Gantt charts.

44.   A system having versions of a plan, each reflecting an instance in an edit history, the system comprising:

means for storing indications of the versions of the plan; and

means for displaying the versions of the plan in a sequential manner to simulate
5   animation of the edit history.